

Application Serial No. 09/943,109
Attorney Docket No. 60027.0307US01/BS01158

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for tracking telephone plan minute status, comprising:
 - initializing a first timer, having timer information, including a time block designation having time limits and a timer usage variable, associated therewith;
 - adding time used by a call to the timer usage variable [[if]]when the call was made within the time block designation associated with the first timer; and
 - notifying a user of predefined timer information wherein the predefined timer information includes the time limits minus a value of the timer usage variable.
2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - initializing a second timer, having timer information, including a second time block designation and a second timer usage variable, associated therewith wherein the first timer usage variable and the second timer usage variable can accumulate time simultaneously.
3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the predefined timer information includes [[a]] the value associated with the timer usage variable.
4. (Canceled).
5. (Canceled).
6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - receiving from the user time block information to initialize a timer.

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7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, further comprising:
setting each time block designation associated with each timer based on a time block defined by a calling plan structure.
8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein each time block designation associated with each timer comprises at least one beginning time and at least one ending time.
9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein each time block designation associated with each timer comprises at least one beginning date and at least one beginning time and at least one ending date and at least one ending time.
10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
resetting the timer usage variable.
11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, further comprising:
resetting the timer usage variable periodically.
12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said notifying further comprises:
sending an electronic message to the user.
13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said notifying further comprises:
transmitting timer information on a computer network to the user.
14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said notifying further comprises:
receiving a user request for timer information through a voice mail system; and
transmitting timer information to the user through the voice mail system.

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15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
protecting the predefined timer information with a user password.
16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
charging a fee to access the predefined timer information.
17. (Currently amended) A system for tracking telephone plan minute status,
comprising:
a computer; and
~~a software program loaded onto said computer configured to:~~
means associated with the computer for initiating[[e]] a timer, wherein the timer
has information, including a time block designation having a time limit and a timer usage
variable, associated therewith;
means associated with the computer for adding time used by a call to the timer
usage variable [[if]] when the call was made within the time block designation associated with
the timer; and
means associated with the computer for notifying a user of predefined timer
information wherein the predefined timer information includes the time limit minus a value of
the timer usage variable.
18. (Currently amended) The system of claim 17, wherein the predefined timer
information includes [[a]] the value of the timer usage variable.
19. (Canceled).
20. (Currently amended) The system of claim 17, ~~wherein said software program is~~
further comprising means associated with the computer for ~~configured to~~ resetting the timer
usage variable periodically.

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21. (Currently amended) The system of claim 17, ~~wherein said software program is~~ further comprising means associated with the computer for configured to protecting information associated with the timer with a password.

22. (Currently amended) The system of claim 17, further comprising:
a computer network in communication with said the computer and configured for allowing the user to access the predefined timer information.

Claims 23-30 (Canceled).

31. (New) A computer readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions for causing a computer to perform a method for tracking telephone plan minute status, the method comprising:

initializing a first timer, having timer information, including a time block designation having time limits and a timer usage variable, associated therewith;

adding time used by a call to the timer usage variable when the call was made within the time block designation associated with the first timer; and

notifying a user of predefined timer information wherein the predefined timer information includes the time limits minus a value of the timer usage variable.

32. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 31, wherein the method further comprises initializing a second timer, having timer information, including a second time block designation and a second timer usage variable, associated therewith wherein the first timer usage variable and the second timer usage variable are enabled to accumulate time simultaneously.